

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01389 271004Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 AID-05 /081 W
-----003324 271125Z /23

R 270810Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7799
INFO AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 1389

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, PROP, ET, UK
SUBJ: EPMG BLASTS UK OVER ANTI-ETHIOPIAN PRESS ARTICLES

1. AT SAME TIME ETHIOPIAN MOFA WAS ACCUSING US OF CON-
SPIRING WITH SOMALIA FOR LATTER TO ANNEX DJIBOUTI (ADDIS
ABABA 1383), SEVERAL RECENT ARTICLES APPEARING IN LONDON
NEWSPAPERS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
IN ETHIOPIA PROVOKED PREDICTABLY HOSTILE REACTION FROM
EPMG AGAINST UK. ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTIONARY INFORMATION
CENTRE (ERIC) ISSUED STATEMENT MARCH 23 CHARGING THAT
BRITISH MASS MEDIA USE OF "RED TERROR" AND "HUMAN RIGHTS"
TO VILIFY ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION WAS CLEAR INDICATION THAT
IMPERIALIST POWERS HAVE CHANGED THEIR TACTICS FOR SUBVERT-
ING REVOLUTION AND HAVE STARTED VIRULENT ANTI-ETHIOPIA
PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN. ERIC ACCUSED BRITISH FOREIGN
SECRETARY OWEN PERSONALLY OF INTENSIFYING THIS PROPAGAN-
DA, AND INDICATION THAT IT "MAY WELL BE MADE COR-
NERSTONE OF BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY."

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2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS USUAL PRACTICE, ETHIOPIAN
HERALD PICKED UP THESE CHARGES IN EDITORIAL MARCH 26,
CONTAINING THE NOW FAMILIAR THREAT THAT IF LONDON
CONTINUED ITS HOSTILE BEHAVIOR AGAINST ETHIOPIA AND
ITS REVOLUTION, RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES MIGHT
BE RENDERED MEANINGLESS. EDITORIAL WAS CRITICAL OF

UK FOR HARBORING ETHIOPIAN EDU ARISTOCRATS AND FOR ACTION OF MP'S WINSTON CHURCHILL AND JULIAN AMERY FOR VISITING MOGADISCIO IN FEBRUARY AND CALLING FOR ACTIVE MILITARY AID TO SOMALIA AT HEIGHT OF INVASION. IT CALLED ON WHITEHALL TO SET ITS OWN HOUSE IN ORDER BY SOLVING WAR IN IRELAND AND BY MEETING "LEGITIMATE DEMANDS AND ASPIRATIONS OF VARIOUS NATIONALITIES WITHIN COUNTRY." EDITORIAL SAID BLOODSHED AND TERROR WERE DAILY OCCURRENCES IN IRELAND, AND BRITAIN SHOULD ADDRESS THAT ISSUE, INSTEAD OF MEDDLING IN ETHIOPIA'S AFFAIRS.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ETHIOPIAN SENSITIVITY TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE REMAINS HIGH, IT IS INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT TO TAKE SERIOUSLY EPMG'S IDLE THREATS CONCERNING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. WHAT DOES EMERGE FROM THIS BLAST AGAINST UK AND NEW CHARGES AGAINST US IS RENEWED EVIDENCE OF EPMG DESIRE TO KEEP WESTERN COUNTRIES ON DEFENSIVE AND TO BUILD CASE FOR RETAINING IN COUNTRY PERSONNEL OF ITS NEWFOUND SOCIALIST FRIENDS. MATHERON

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 27 mar 1978
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
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Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation History:
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